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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, IO 13, SR 01, ORM 03, SCS 04, SCA 01, AID 28, SSO 00,  
USIE 00, NSCE 00, CIAE 00, DODE 00, JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00,  
NSC 10, P 04, RSC 01, SP 02, SS 20, UCF 05, UPW 01, RSR 01, /146 W  
----- 018329

P R 041540Z JUN 69  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6976  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY COTONOU  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMCONSUL KADUNA  
AMCONSUL IBADAN

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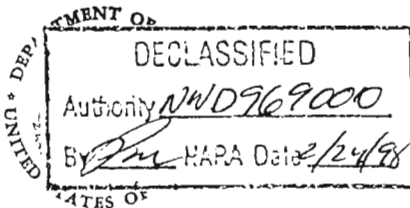
SUBJ: FERGUSON DISCUSSION WITH GEN. GOWON RE INTERDICTION  
RELIEF FLIGHTS

REF: LAGOS 5018 (NOTAL)

1. IN COURSE DISCUSSION WITH GEN. GOWON ON SURFACE  
ROUTES, FERGUSON USED OCCASION TO INQUIRE WHETHER ANY  
BASIS IN FACT REPORTS FMG ADOPTING NEW POLICY  
RELATIVE TO RELIEF FLIGHTS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO THEIR  
INTERDICTION BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT. GOWON AFTER  
DELIVERING LECTURE TO EFFECT SECURITY OF NIGERIA  
PARAMOUNT AND THAT IF NECESSARY ALL RELIEF FLIGHTS OR  
OTHER ACTIVITIES WOULD BE HALTED, WENT ON TO RESTATE  
HIS CONSISTENT POSITION THAT ALL NIGHT FLIGHTS " ILLEGAL"  
AND THAT THOSE FLYING THEM DO SO AT OWN RISK. HE ALSO  
SAID THAT PERMISSION FOR DAYLIGHT FLIGHTS WOULD BE  
DEPENDENT ON SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS AT ANY GIVEN TIME.  
HE THEN ADDED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN POLICY  
AND VOLUNTEERED THAT SHOULD THERE BE A CHANGE HE WOULD  
GIVE APPROPRIATE NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED.

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E.O. 12958, as amended  
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2. BRIG. KATSINA COS NIGERIAN ARMY ON JUNE 2 GAVE  
CONSUL STOKES SAME ASSURANCE THAT POLICY RE FLIGHTS  
UNCHANGED.  
GP-3 OLSON

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